

Message Text

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POUCHED INFO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA

SUBJ: JEAN-JACQUES BLAIS NAMED NEW POSTMASTER GENERAL
AND DEPUTY HOUSE LEADER

REF: OTTAWA 3705

1. JEAN-JACQUES BLAIS WAS SEPTEMBER 14, NAMED NEW
POSTMASTER GENERAL AND DEPUTY HOUSE LEADER. FOLLOWING
IS RELEVANT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

2. LIBERAL MP - NIPISSING. BORN JUNE 27, 1940 AT
STURGEON FALLS, ONT. EDUCATED AT UNIV OF OTTAWA AND
OSGOOD HALL. MARRIED WITH TWO SONS. A LAWYER. MEMBER
ADV. COMMITTEE ON FRENCH EDUCATION, TORONTO BD OF EDUCATION,
1969-70; FIRST ELECTED TO HOUSE OF COMMONS,
GEN. ELEC 1972. APPOINTED PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO
PRESIDENT OF PRIVY COUNCIL, OCT 75.

3. COMMENT: BLAIS IS A FRENCH-CANADIAN FROM
CENTRAL ONTARIO. HE IS A LAWYER WITH A SPECIALIST
BACKGROUND IN CRIMINAL AND LABOR LAW. AFTER
GRADUATION FROM THE OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL, HE
PRACTICED LAW IN TORONTO FOR FOUR YEARS BEFORE
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MOVING TO NORTH BAY IN 1970.

4. BLAIS RECEIVED PARTICULARLY HIGH MARKS FOR HIS PERFORMANCE AS PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL AND SOME MEASURE OF TRDUEAU'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM IS THE APPOINTMENT AS POSTMASTER GENERAL, A PORTFOLIO CONFRONTED WITH NUMEROUS AND SRIIOUS PROBLEMS. AMONG THESE ARE SUCH FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AS MODERNICATION AND WAGE DEMANDS. THERE HAVE BEEN 40 MAJOR LABOR DISRUPTIONS IN THE POST OFFICE DURIRING THE PAST 10 YEARS, THE MOST RECENT A TURBULENT SIX-WEEK NATIONWIDE STRIKE AT THE END OF 1975.

5. PRESUMABLY, BLAIS'S LABOR LAW BACKGROUND WILL BE USEFUL IN HIS NEW DUTIES AS POSTMASTER GENERAL. SIMILARLY, HIS EXPERIENCE AS PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL (AND HOUSE LEADER) MEANS HE IS NO NEWCOMER TO HIS JOB AS DEPUTY HOUSE LEADER.
ENDERS

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